

TOWN OF SHIRLEY

CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS

November 7, 2022

Purchase and Sale

1. Cemetery lots are available in the Shirley Center Cemetery off Brown Road and the Village Cemetery off Harvard Road.
2. Purchase of cemetery lots is open to all residents of Shirley regardless of race, color, creed or national origin.
3. Upon application, purchase information will be provided on the availability and cost of lots and other conditions upon which interments may be made. A copy of current Rules and Regulations will be given to the purchaser.
4. All money due on a lot, including the opening fee, shall be paid before the opening of a grave.
5. Lots and burial rights may be sold by the owners, their heirs or assigns, to someone in direct line of the family, or to a resident of Shirley. Rights for interment may be transferred or granted only upon approval of the Cemetery Committee.

Burials

1. All burials and exhumations in the Town cemeteries shall be conducted under the supervision of the Cemetery Committee.
2. The size of a single lot is 4 feet by 10 feet.
3. Body interments shall be placed in caskets and in a concrete vault (no flat-top or sections allowed). Cremains shall be placed in a solid container that will not deteriorate. This may be ceramic, stone or cement. No wooden boxes or metal containers will be accepted.
4. When cremated remains are to be interred in burial lots, no more than six (6) sets of human remains shall be interred in a single grave, with no more than three (3) flat markers per grave.
5. There are no burials on Sundays and holidays.

Grave Markers

1. Burials must have permanent grave markers, such as a gravestone or flat marker.
2. A gravestone or flat marker must have a foundation. All foundations shall be laid and built under the direction of the Cemetery Committee.
3. Only gravestones and markers which are in keeping with those in the section in which they are to be erected will be allowed. Designs, locations and materials of all markers or other structures must be approved by the Cemetery Committee. This should be done before contracts are signed or orders placed.
4. No gravestone or bench shall be constructed of any material other than natural stone. No artificial material will be permitted. The dimensions for natural stone will be:
 - a. Not over three (3) feet wide (includes benches)
 - b. Not over two (2) feet deep (front to back)
 - c. Not over three (3) feet high
5. Flat grave markers must be set flush with grade and not exceed three (3) feet in length by one (1) foot in width. These shall be made of stone or bronze and are intended to indicate the location of a specific grave. Only flat grave markers are allowed in the Village Circle section of Village Cemetery. No more than three (3) flat markers per grave shall be allowed for cremains' graves.
6. Curbing, corner posts, buttresses, and wooden structures are not allowed.
7. All work to be done by people not employed by the Cemetery Committee must be submitted for approval before commencing, and approval of work must be obtained when the work is finished.
8. Immediately upon completion of any work on lots, all surplus materials must be removed by those doing the work. Avenues or lots other than the ones upon which the work is being done must be kept clear at all times.

Plantings and Decorations

1. Plantings may not exceed the height and width of the gravestone. No trees and shrubs shall be planted. If plantings are not cared for properly, they will be removed.
2. Cutting of turf for flower beds shall be contained to the front of the gravestone. Cutting shall not exceed the width of the gravestone and twelve (12) inches out from the base of the gravestone.
3. Floral frames or baskets will not be kept over one week from the day of interment. If families wish the baskets returned, they should notify the Cemetery Committee.

4. No artificial flowers are allowed in the cemetery. Lot owners are requested to limit the number of baskets, flower pots, and articles of a similar nature placed on a lot. The Cemetery Committee members will not be responsible for turf on lots damaged by such articles. Deteriorated items will be removed.
5. Decorations such as urns, boxes, or markers of a permanent nature, shall be placed upon the graves or lots only with the approval of the Cemetery Committee.
6. Cans, ornaments, toys, keepsakes, balloons, windchimes, and similar articles are inconsistent with the proper keeping of the grounds and will be removed.
7. Seasonal cleanups: All baskets, potted plants, and holiday decorations will be removed by October 1 and April 15 of each year.

Maintenance

1. General lawn and tree maintenance will be provided by the Town of Shirley's Department of Public Works, under the supervision of the Cemetery Committee.
2. Flower beds shall be kept weeded and cared for by the owners. Employees of the Cemetery Committee will not be responsible for accidental damage to plants on lots.
3. Improvements to cemetery lots shall be at the expense of the lot owners or their legal representatives if they can be found, otherwise at reasonable cost to the Town.

Visitation

1. The cemeteries are open for visitation every day from sunrise to sunset.
2. Any trespass, vandalism, or other illegal act will subject the offender to action or arrest and prosecution in court.
3. All persons are forbidden to gather flowers either wild or cultivated or break or remove any tree, shrub, plant, or part thereof in the cemetery without permission of the Cemetery Committee.
4. Dogs shall be on a leash at all times. Owners are responsible for picking up after their dogs.
5. No recreational activities are allowed.
6. All art transfer work, called "rubblings," is prohibited.

Contact Information

Inquiries about the Shirley's cemeteries may be made to:

Cemetery Committee
Town of Shirley
7 Keady Way
Shirley, MA 01464

(978) 425-2600 Ext. 233